enable completion of the project expeditiously by reducing the gestation period.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 1651 crore including interest and escalation was incurred up to the end of March 1997 in this behalf.

(d) The programme has not been abandoned. But due to financial constraints the projects could not be taken up as originally envisaged. In view of this the advance procurement programme was reviewed and curtailed. It is proposed to take up immediately for construction of two 500 MWe Units at Tarapur. Efforts are also being made to short-close/cancel/defer orders already placed to the extent feasible for the projects not likely to be taken up during the IX Five Year Plan viz. Rajasthan Atomic Power Project-5 to 8 and Kaiga 5&6.

Uranium Ore Deposits in the Country

1707. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uranium deposits are available in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the estimated value thereof, State-wise;

(c) the way in which these reserves are likely to be utilised and for how long; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in future in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Economically mineable deposits of Uranium (U308) are available at the following places:—

Name of the deposit	Ore in Million Tonnes	AV Grade (% U308)	U308 (Tonnes)
Jaduguda, Singhbhum District, Bihar	10.07	0.067	*6700
Bhatin, Singhbhum District, Bihar	2.25	0.051	*1150
Narwapahar, Singhbhum District, Bihar	25.01	0.044	*11000
Copper tailings from Copper mines at Singhbhum District, Bihar	9.75 (concentrate)	0.080	*7800
Mohuldih, Singhbhum District, Bihar	2.83	0.063	1700
Domiasiat, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya	9.22	0.104	9500
Lambapur, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh	1.75	0.093	1700

*A Part of these reserves has been extracted over the years for requirement of fuel for the existing Nuclear Plants. Since Uranium is not a freely tradable commodity, its value cannot be determined correctly.

(c) U 308 is processed and used as fuel for Nuclear Reactors. The reserves are expected to meet the requirement of the production of nearly 5,500 MWe of electricity for 25 years.

(d) Continuous efforts are made to locate deposits in various parts of the country.

Companies Involved in Mining Sand for Minerals for Atomic Emergy Sources

1708. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private companies and public sector undertakings are involved in mining of sand for minerals for atomic energy sources;

(b) if so, the details of the companies involved in this regard; and

(c) the criteria fixed by Government for selection of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) Mining of atomic minerals has been reserved for the Public Sector under the Statement on Industrial Policy, 1991. The Indian Rare Earths Limited (IRE), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Atomic Emergy, and Kerala Minerals & Metals Limited, a Government Kerala undertaking, are the only companies involved in the mining operations.

Gamma Rays Scanning Technique

1709. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scientists and engineers in India have developed the Gamma Rays Scanning Technique to diagnose problems in industrial columns;

(b) if so, the details of this development; and

(c) by when this technique would be commercially available to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Scientists and Engineers of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), mumbai have developed Gamma Ray Scanning Technique to diagonse problems in industrial process columns in collaboration with Engineers India Ltd., New Delhi.

This technique is based on the gamma radiation absorption profile of the column. The technique uses a small sealed source of radioactivity (Cobalt-60 or Caesium-137) emitting gamma radiation and a suitable detector. They are placed on either side of an industrial column and synchronously moved along the column to obtain the absorption profile. The profile is interprected based on the internal structure and the chemical/petrochemical process going on inside the column. The Technique is suitable for online troubleshooting, without having to shut down the column. It is a modern practice to obtain a 'signature scan' of a healthy column for later comparisor when the column develops a problem.

(c) The technique is already available compercially to the public. Under a Memorandum of Understanding, the BARC, Mumbai and the Engineers. India Ltd., New Delhi offer this service to the industry, either jointly or seperately, depending on the location of the industry and the type of problem.

कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण

1710. **श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में तेजी से स्थापित हो रहे कम्प्यूटर शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण केन्द्रों और उनके द्वारा दिए जा रहे